

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-61 are pending in the application, that claims 5-7, 13-19, 20-61 are withdrawn from consideration, leaving Claims 1-4, 8-12 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been traversed, that no new matter has been entered, and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art shown in Figure 1A of the present application in view of U.S. Patent 5,690,797 to Harada et al.

Harada et al teaches an electrolysis system wherein the electrolysis cell (1) is submerged in a combined water reserve and gas separator (7/7A). The electrolysis cell (1) has an anode and a cathode portion that produces oxygen and hydrogen gas. The oxygen exits the electrolysis cell (1) through connection (3) into the separator portion (7A) of the water reservoir (7). The hydrogen gas exits the electrolysis cell (1) through connection (4) which pierces the wall of the water reservoir (7/7A) and exits into a discrete hydrogen/water separator (32).

Independent claim 1 as amended is directed to a system for monitoring combustible gas comprising, *inter alia*, "a second phase separator having an inlet for receiving a portion of said two phase gas-water mixture, a first outlet having an opening therefrom, a second outlet for draining water, wherein said second separator inlet is fluidly connected to said first separator outlet to provide a conduit for transferring said portion of said gas-water mixture from said first phase separator to said second phase separator."

Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 1 as amended is not obvious in view of the prior art shown in Figure 1A in further view Harada et al. While Applicant respectfully disagrees that the connection (4) of Harada et al. fluidly couples the two phase separators (7) and (32) since no fluid or gas from the phase separator (7) passes through connection (4). Connection (4) of Harada et al is the hydrogen gas

conduit between the electrolysis cell and the hydrogen separator 32 (see Column 11, lines 13-17). However, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to further clarify the scope of Independent Claim 1 to require the first and second separators be arranged to provide a conduit for transferring a portion of the gas-water mixture from the first phase separator to the second phase separator. Applicant respectfully submits that Independent Claim 1 as amended is patentable over the prior art shown in Figure 1A in further view of Harada et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

For the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1 Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of dependent Claims 2-4, and 8-12 which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and incorporate all of the limitations of Claim 1 as amended are improper. Therefore, applicants submit that Claims 2-4, and 8-12 patentably define over the prior art shown in Figure 1 in view of Harada et al. in further view of Whynall et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-4, and 8-12 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


For the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Reply or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 503125 maintained by applicants' agent.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 503125

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD DEMAREST. ET AL.

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